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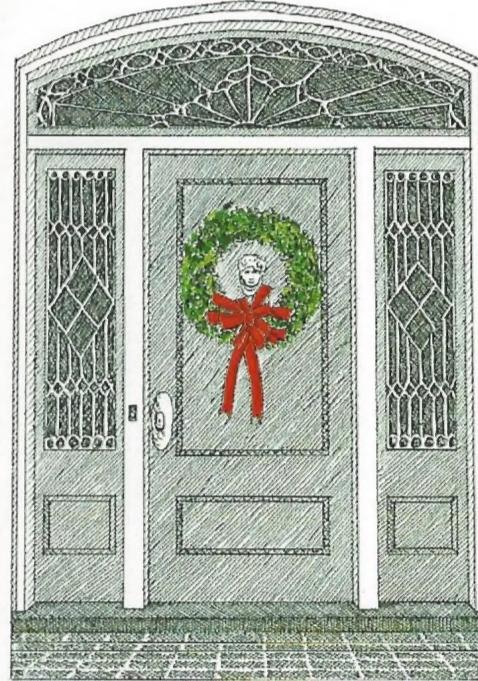
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Come Back to Brewer Avenue  
December 3 & 4 3:00-7:00pm

Come Back to Brewer  
Avenue



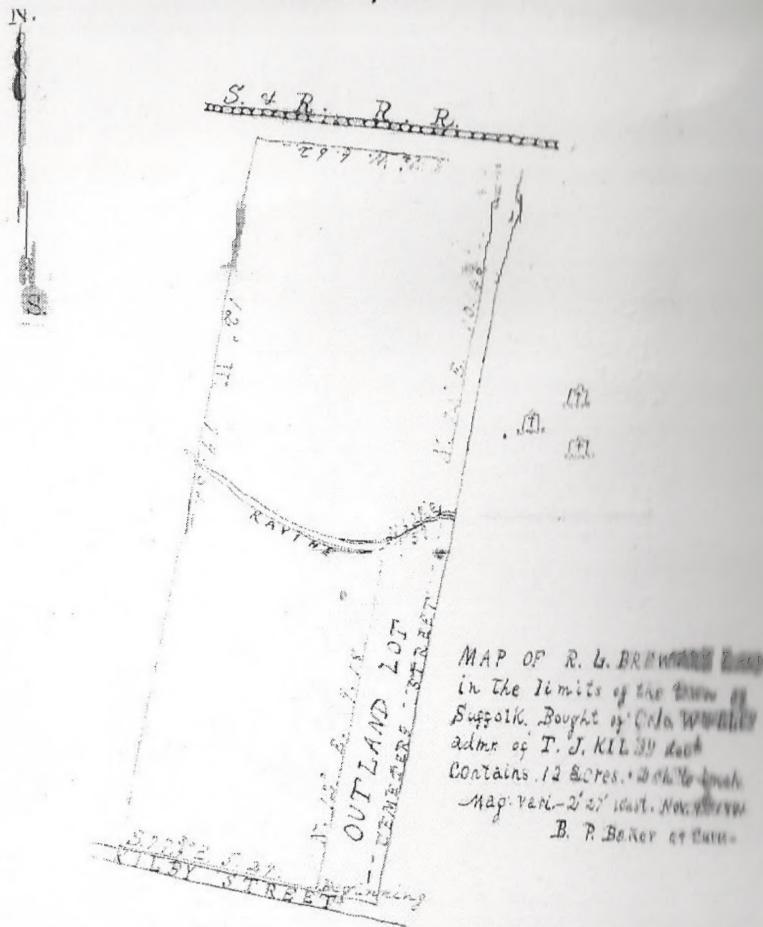
Avenue



Dawson House Door  
Headquarters of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

29th Annual Suffolk-Nansemond  
Historical Society  
Candlelight Tour  
December 3rd-4th, 2005  
3:00-7:00pm

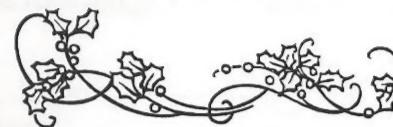
1881 Plat



SNHS note: Kilby St. (now W. Washington) was named for Thomas Jefferson Kilby who lived on this property and, in fact, owned the land all the way to Lake Kilby.

The cemetery indicated here was Willow Hill (now Wellons Park) the original burial site for Dr. William B. Wellons, Christian Church minister and C.S.A. chaplain, for whom Wellons St. was named. Remains at Willow Hill were later moved to Cedar Hill Cemetery.

The railroad was the Seaboard and Roanoke RR, now known as CSX.



Dear Friends,

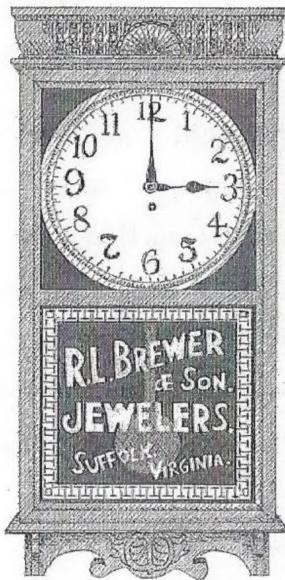
In 1977 when we had our first Candlelight Tour, the tour houses — the two of them — were blocks apart. It was hard to find good old houses more or less in original form that were being cared for by appreciative owners. What a change for the better now! With whole neighborhoods being revitalized, we are able to have true walking tours. These neighborhoods are taking on new life as tenements with absentee landlords are being replaced by proud owner occupants.

For a few years Brewer Avenue was a street one hesitated to traverse. Now thanks to the work of Garcia Development and others, we see sightseers riding down that same street enjoying the progress as home after home is enjoying a facelift. Join us this year to see what's happening — Come back to Brewer Avenue!

Sue Woodward

# The Best Known Brewers

## R. L. Brewer, Sr.



Richard L. Brewer [1827-1902] is a member of one of the oldest families of the State of Virginia, of English origin. They were so early in this country that two creeks in the State bear their names, and one of the streets of Norfolk. Richard Brewer is the son of John and Harriet (Bruce) Brewer, and married in the city of Petersburg, July 1859, to Judith Ann Sutton. Her maiden name was Robinson, and she was born in the county of Chesterfield, in the State of Virginia. Three children have been given them: Jennie L., born December 26, 1860; Richard L. Jr., May 27, 1864, and Annie L., November 15, 1865. When the peace of our country was invaded by war, Mr. Brewer engaged but a short time. His brother, Captain Jesse B. Brewer, was the captain of a company of cavalry, 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Cavalry, but being unable to endure the exposure incident to an army life, and died in Prince George County, from sickness caused by this exposure. For eight years Mr. Brewer has occupied the position of magistrate of Suffolk, mayor of the same place two years, and school superintendent of Nansemond county twelve years. His present occupation is that of jeweler, in Suffolk, Virginia.

From Hardesty's *Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia* 1885

## Col. R. L. Brewer

Richard L. Brewer, Jr. (1864-1947) was born in Prince George County, Virginia, though his parents had lived in Nansemond County for many years. His father was the first mayor of Suffolk and first Superintendent of Schools.

As a small boy Brewer moved back to Suffolk with his parents. He attended Suffolk schools and the old Suffolk Military Academy. He went to work in his father's jewelry business when he was just a boy. The business had been started by Thomas Hannaford before the Civil War and Mr. Brewer, Sr., purchased it in 1875. The younger Mr. Brewer sold the store in 1923. The business kept the Brewer name until it left Washington Square in the 1990's. For more than a century gifts in Brewer Jewelry boxes delighted young brides in Suffolk and the surrounding area.

After the business was sold Mr. Brewer became involved in real estate, politics, and the boards and committees of the Methodist Church. He was secretary and treasurer of the Riverview Land and Investment Company, which developed Riverview, the first houses being built there in the 1920's.

He served on Suffolk City Council for many years and was mayor of Suffolk for twelve years. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates for twenty-two years and was Speaker of the House 1920-26.

In 1920 Col. Brewer (the title was an honorary one) was a member of the commission going to England to present that country with a replica of the Houdon statue of George Washington. The statue, which is in Trafalger Square, was unveiled by Col. Brewer's daughter, Judith (1900-1990) who would later become Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin. Miss Brewer was presented at the Court of St. James, a distinction few other area citizens could or can now claim.

Based on Oct. 1942 special edition Suffolk-News

## Developing Brewer Place

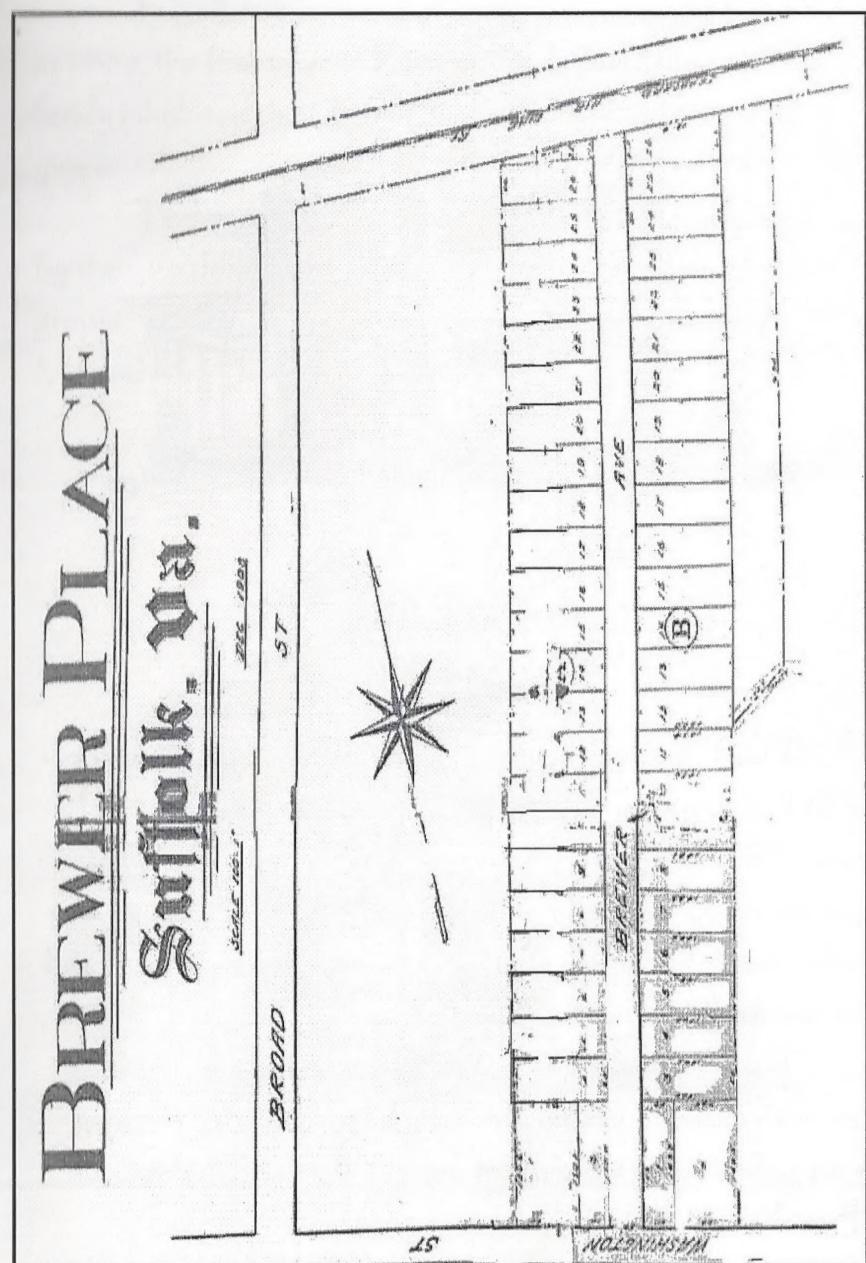
Col. Brewer was part of the company that developed Riverview, but he never lived there. His home was at the corner of today's W. Washington Street and Wellons Street. By the same token, though Brewer Avenue has his name, he had no part in its development.

Col. Brewer and his sisters had inherited from their father twelve acres of land between Kilby Street (now W. Washington Street) and the Seaboard and Roanoke (now CSX) Railroad. It was land that had belonged to Thomas J. Kilby. In 1902 Col. Brewer and his sister Annie sold their interests in the land to their sister, Jennie, and her husband, E.W. Huffman of Newport News. The Huffmans called the area Brewer Place and started selling lots on Brewer Avenue in 1909. Most single lots sold for \$600.00 and many people bought double lots. No house was to be constructed for less than \$2000.00. Twenty-five lots sold in the first year. Brewer Avenue soon became a popular street, with two rows of handsome Queen Anne and Classical Revival homes punctuated occasionally with a stylish bungalow. The building on Brewer Avenue continued into the 1930's and beyond.

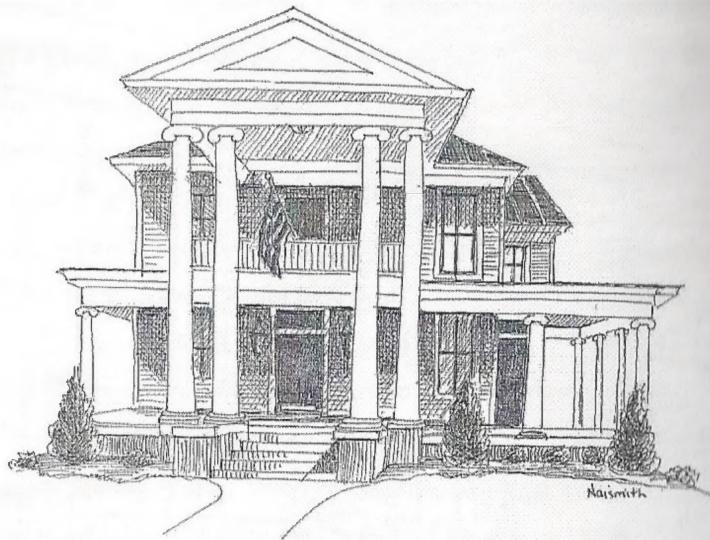
In the years after World War II (1945-1952) many of the one family homes became apartments. Eventually, the street began to attract a different quality of people. Pride in the neighborhood suffered.

Now the life long residents who remain on Brewer Avenue are witnessing a comeback. Come to see what it's all about December 3 & 4!

December 1908 Brewer Place Plat



## Come Back to Brewer Avenue



104 Brewer Ave.  
The Gay House

This Classical Revival style house was built by lumberman M.E. Gay soon after he purchased lots #4 and #5 in Brewer Place in 1909. Three generations of his family enjoyed the spacious house and gardens. Eventually lot #4 was sold for the construction of an apartment house and the grand old home itself became two apartments.

Taking on new life this is a handsome one family home again, with dramatic colors providing a fine place for showing the art collected by the current owners, Ens. and Mrs. Ryan L. Brooks.

## 106 Brewer Avenue The Delk House

S.E. Delk, a native of Smithfield, bought Lot #6 in 1909, the first year of Brewer Place development. His family inhabited the Queen Anne style house for many years.

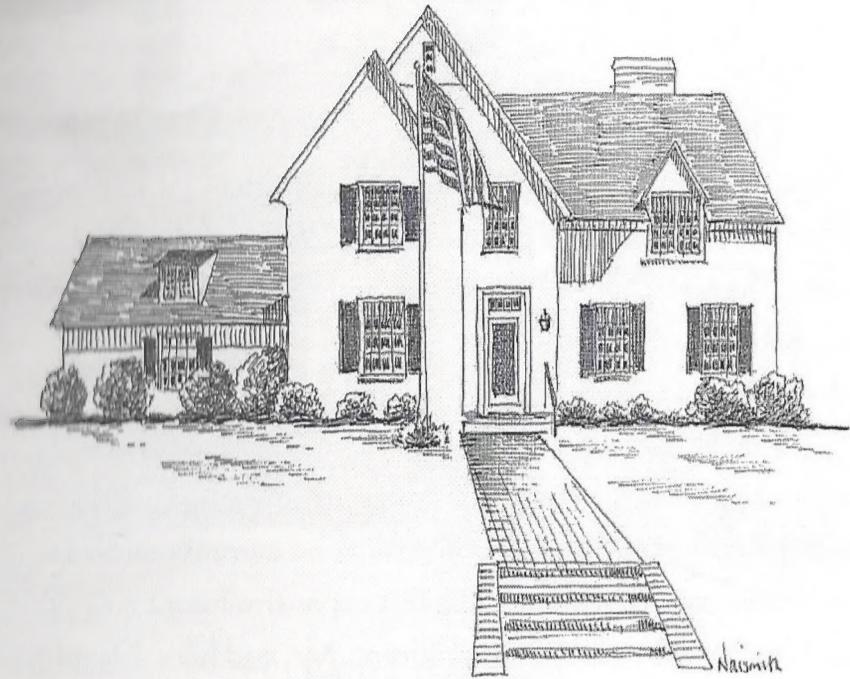
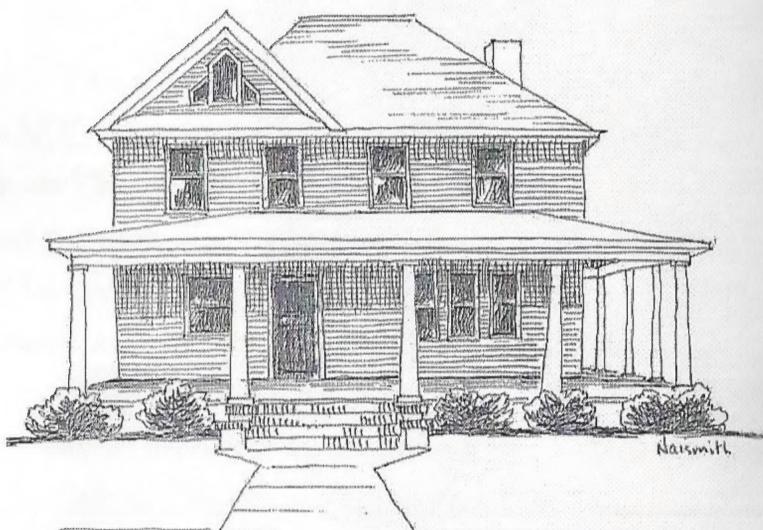
Today the beautiful home reflects taste acquired by the wife during her childhood in Belgium. The photographic artistry of the husband provides extra interest. Mr. and Mrs. James Bielmann, owners.



110 Brewer Avenue  
The Morrison House  
Holiday Central



Another Queen Anne style house from the early wave of construction in Brewer Place, this house is undergoing renovation at the hands of Garcia Development. This single family house turned duplex is becoming a single family home again. Come here to the Sugar Plum Kitchen to purchase Christmas goodies to take home, hear the heavenly sounds of the harp as played by Mary Margaret Jones, and see Christmas trees decorated by local artists ~ items for Christmas giving or (as a gift for oneself) may be purchased here.



122 Brewer Avenue  
The Andrews House

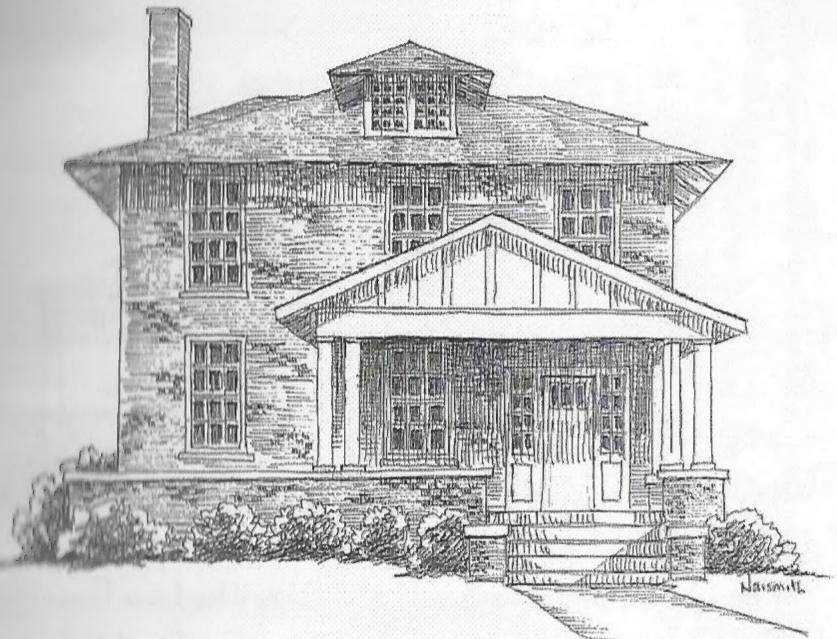
This house is believed to have been built by Pembroke Baker in the 1930's but the Tudor Revival style home is known to many as the Andrews house for the Willard Andrews family who bought the house in the 1940's and lived there for many years.

The current owners of the handsome home have a deep interest in history, particularly the War Between the States, and that is reflected in the art and collections on display in the house. Mr. And Mrs. John Pelletier, owners.

121 Brewer Avenue  
The Riddick House

This Queen Anne style house was built by Burwell Riddick. He also built the house on Washington Street facing Brewer Avenue that now houses R.W. Baker Funeral Home. His son, Burwell, Jr, was an architect and builder, who designed many other well-known Suffolk buildings, including the bungalows at College Court.

The house at 121 Brewer had been rented for many years and was in some disrepair when purchased by Garcia Development. It's all in fine form now. The current residents have chosen warm colors to make this expansive house a cozy home for themselves and their children. Mr. and Mrs. David Arnold, owners.



The Little House  
113 Brewer Avenue

This house was not built in time for the 1920 insurance maps. Of the long list of owners, it is likely that it was built for the Little family who owned the property from 1911 into the 1930's.

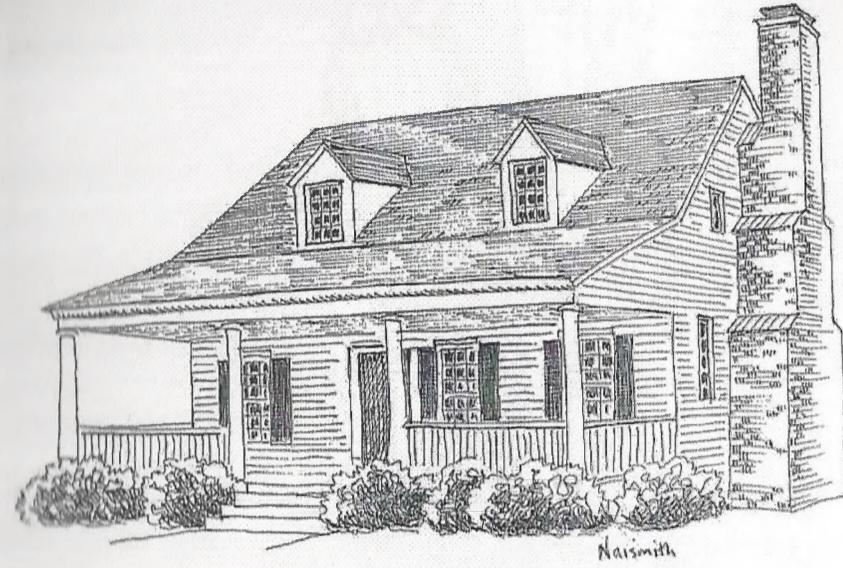
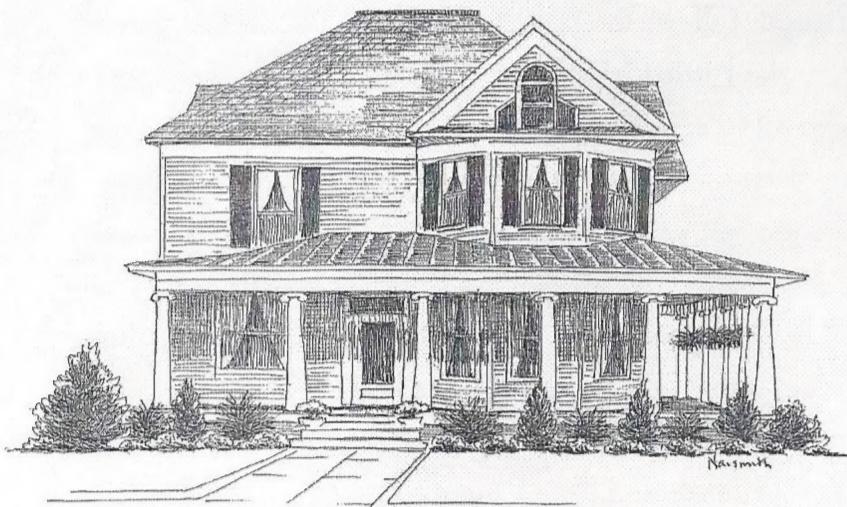
This craftsman style house is currently undergoing renovation by Garcia Development. Come in and see how it's coming along and see work by Suffolk artist Sugar Barrow. Her work is available for purchase or just to be enjoyed as guests check the progress on the house.

Also at this house enjoy a vintage linen show and sale by Fine Threads and Fine Linens.

512 West Washington Street  
The Holland House  
APEEPIN

Though it faces West Washington Street this property is part of the Brewer Place development. A.T. Holland, inventor of the peanut-sorting machine, bought Lot #3 in Block A in 1909. No doubt his Queen Anne style house was built soon after the purchase. The house remained in the Holland family for many years.

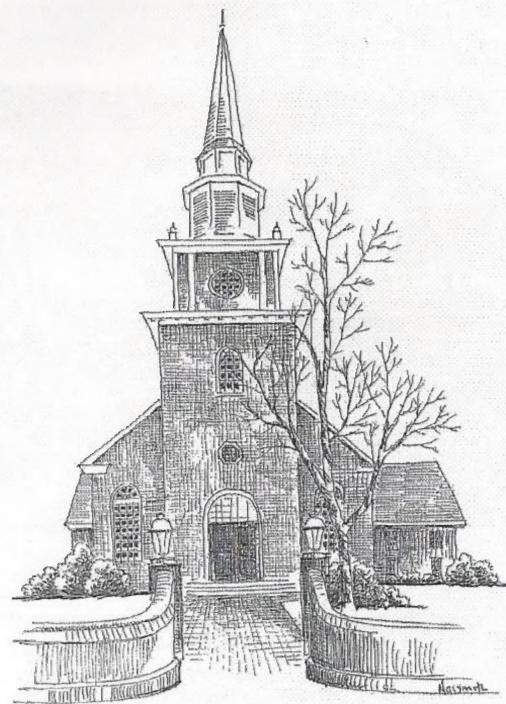
The current owners are avid collectors who have lavished a great deal of care on the house. Guests will be legal Peeping Toms as they enjoy beautiful views of the interior through the front door and the windows of the wrap around porch – the lace curtains will be parted just for you. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hefferon, owners.



The Constantia House  
Behind R.W. Baker Funeral Home

This house is a 1920's copy of a 1720's house that originally stood on a hill overlooking the Nansemond River. John Constant settled in Suffolk in the 1720's and started a trading center on the banks of the river. He built his home on a hill overlooking the river. The settlement that grew here was called Constant's Wharf until the Town of Suffolk was chartered in 1742.

The Constant farm eventually became Cedar Hill Cemetery and the house served as a pest house for a while. In the 1920's the Constantia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, tore down the deteriorating 1720's house and built a replica on the same site. Learn how the Constantia house found a new home. Come enjoy cider and cookies with the ghosts of Mr. and Mrs. Constant.



### West End Baptist Church Corner of West Washington and St. James

Designed by Suffolk architect, A. Dupree Breeden and built in 1929 West End Baptist Church is one of the most beautiful houses of worship in the old city.

The church will be open Sunday only, 3-7pm. Guests will see the Chrismon tree and a display of items from the church's 75 years of history. At 3:30 Dean Kershaw, organist and choirmaster, will perform a program of Advent and Christmas music on the pipe organ.



### Candlelight Tour Events

Sugar Plum Kitchen- Pies, cakes, cookies and candies- all kinds of holiday goodies are available here. Let us be your holiday bakers. 110 Brewer Ave.

Music- Music will fill the air at 110 Brewer Ave, this time with the heavenly sounds of the harp as played by Mary Margaret Jones, former principal harpist with the Richmond Symphony. At dusk listen for the sound of the bagpipe played by Joe Delendeck.

Trees of the City- 110 Brewer Ave. Local artists will decorate trees with unique ornaments that guests may purchase for gift giving or for themselves.

Antique and Vintage Linen Display and Sale- By Fine Threads and Fine Linens. 113 Brewer Avenue. Beautiful linens for bed, bath and table will be available for purchase.

Art show and sale by local artist Sugar Barrow at 113 Brewer Ave. Enjoy the beauty of everyday life as seen through an artist's eyes.



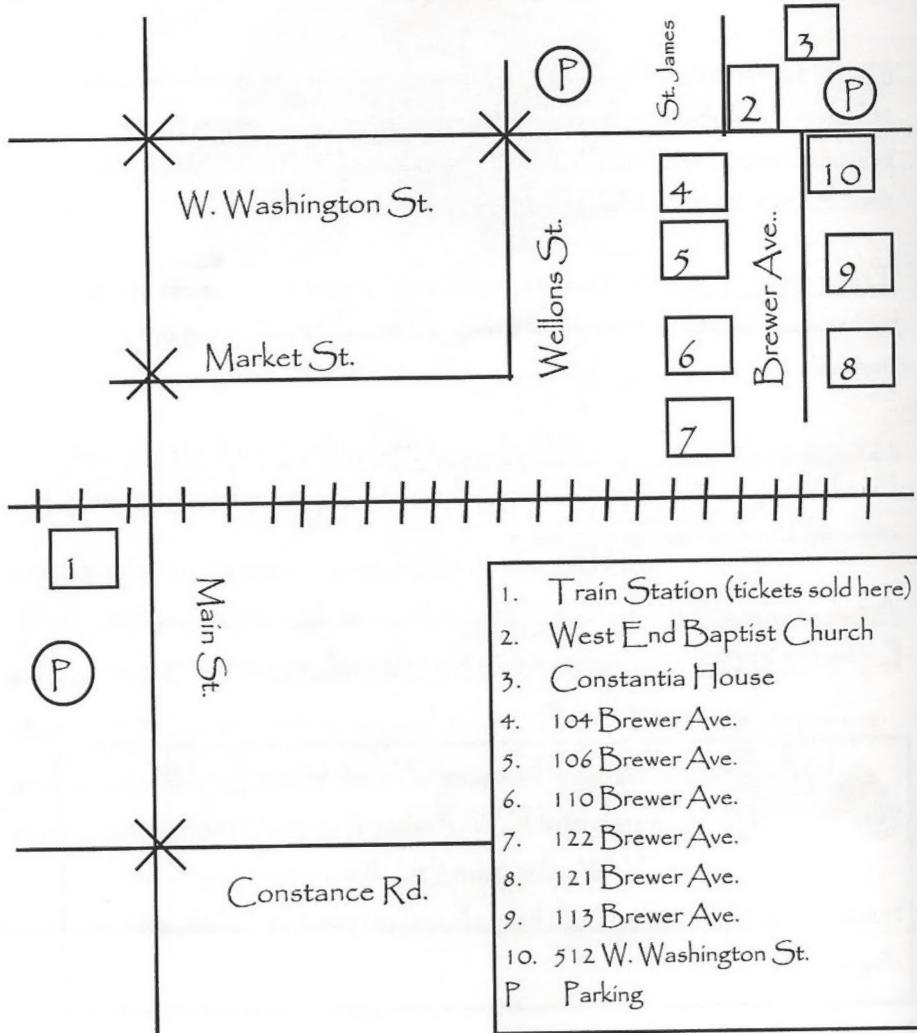
Parking will be available at West End Baptist Church and R.W. Baker Funeral Home both on W. Washington St. As a courtesy to our home owners please no high heel shoes, no photos inside, and no dogs.

## Tour Ticket Information

Tickets may be purchased at the following locations:

Seaboard Station Railroad Museum  
Prentis House Visitor Center

Tickets—\$12 in Advance, \$15 Day of Tour



## Calendar of Events

### Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

12 noon First Friday Concert- Main Street United Methodist Come enjoy a musical celebration of Advent and Christmas music played on violin, flute, and keyboard. This 30-minute concert is open to the public. A soup and sandwich luncheon follows (\$5 suggested donation).

6-7:30pm Santa Comes to the Station. Call 923-4750 for reservations.

### Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

3-7pm Candlelight Home Tours

9-7pm Prentis House Visitor Center

This 1800's era house, home to the Suffolk's Division of Tourism, will be decorated for Christmas. Visitors are welcome! Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum, 326 N. Main St. See our HO scale model of Suffolk a century ago. Visit the gift shop to look for the perfect Christmas gift.

10-4pm Riddick's Folly House Museum, 510 N. Main St. - See the 1837 Greek Revival mansion decorated for the season and visit their gift shop for help with your Christmas shopping list.

10-5pm Suffolk Museum and Holiday Gift Gallery, 118 Bosley Ave. - Find one of a kind gifts by local artists.

7pm Holiday Parade- Downtown (W. Washington & N. Main Streets)

### Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

3-7pm Candlelight Home Tours

9-7pm Prentis House Visitor Center Hours

1-7pm Seaboard Station Railroad Museum Hours

1-9pm Riddick's Folly Hours

1-9pm Suffolk Museum Holiday Gift Gallery

9-7pm West End Baptist Church

### Saturday, December 10th

6-7:30pm Santa Comes to the Station. Call 923-4750 for reservations.

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